MODERN TIMES

"What you do is news!"

Call 562-2510 10¢

New Haven

Volume III, Number 23 April 15-30, 1973

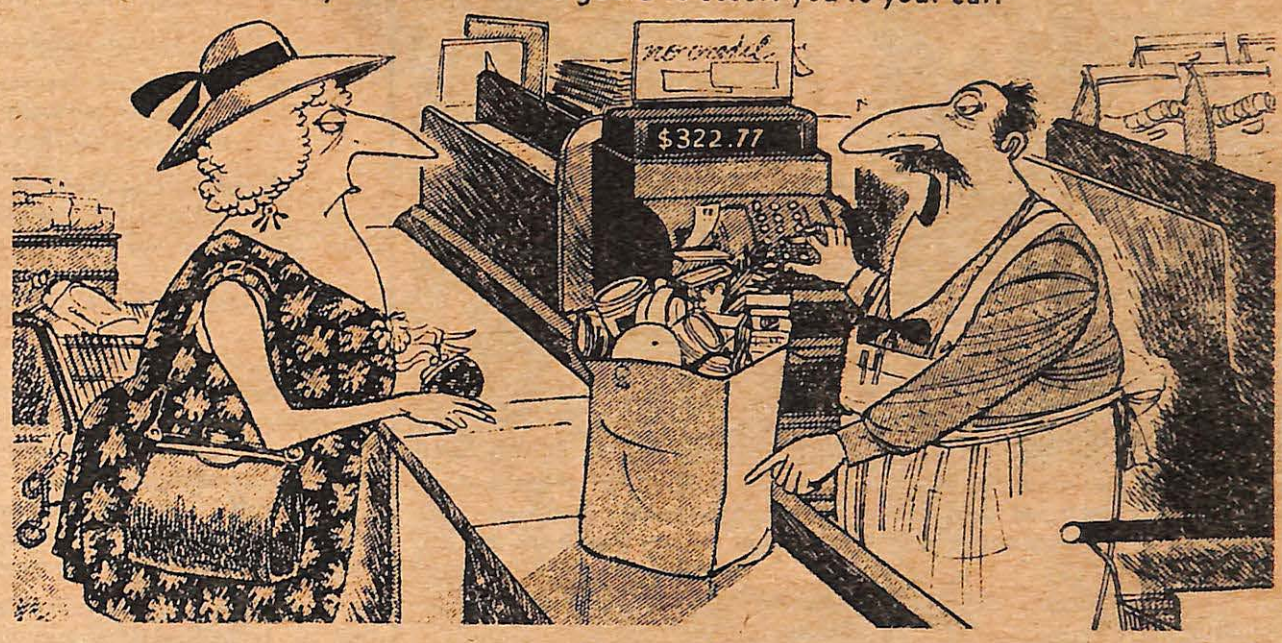
Meat Consumers Have A Bone To Pick

by Rick Wolff
Modern Times Staff

The reason why food prices – and meats in particular – have risen so high is because the companies which deal in these items are charging more. If those don't sound like the words of inspired genius; well, they aren't, but they are not as simple-minded as they sound either. **Why are food companies charging higher prices?**

The answer to this seemingly easy question is a bit complicated. There are different kinds of food companies. There is the corner butcher, but the statistics show that retail butchers are simply passing on the higher prices they pay. It's not too much different for the big food chains, like A&P, Food Fair, etc. They add on a little for extra profit for themselves, but they too are passing on to consumers the higher prices they must pay to the companies supplying them with meat and meat products.

"Would you like an armed guard to escort you to your car?"



That leaves the meat-packing companies and the farm companies who raise the animals. Both these types of companies are also claiming that they just pass on their higher costs in the higher prices they charge. But is that true?

To take the farm companies first. Their defenders are so busy these days trying to put up a believable excuse for skyrocketing prices, that they say things which contradict each other. Sometimes their argument is that consumer demand for meat is so high that prices "are forced" up.

The answer to that pitch is first that rising demand will only lead to rising prices if meat sellers take advantage of it to boost prices. Second, if the meat industry did not foresee rising demand and produce a rising supply of meat for that demand, it means that the meat industry is socially irresponsible. After all, why should consumers have to pay more because of the lack of planning on the part of the meat producers?

Sometimes the farm companies say that they are just raising prices because they have to pay higher costs of producing meat – like higher prices for grain to feed animals, higher interest charges on borrowed financing and higher farm workers' wages. Yet if this were true, how are we to explain the fact that farm company profits rose at a record rate to a record level in 1972.

They did not just pass on higher costs, they boosted prices way beyond their costs in order to make record profits. And the meat packing firms seem to have done

See PACKERS, page 7

Landlords Rip Off Tenant Security

Modern Times Staff

At one time or another, everybody has had to look for an apartment. The process of finding one is generally referred to as a pain in the neck. Want ads, agencies and friends are employed to find the right one. Days, weeks, even months roll by and finally you find one or perhaps you take the first one that comes along because the market is scarce.

But there is developing in New Haven and many surrounding areas, an abundance of apartments. According to the law of supply and demand, rents should be falling. This is not the case; rents are up and have been going up for some time.

To add insult to injury, landlords or their agents demand a "security deposit" on every apartment.

The portion of the real estate page of the Register reprinted here indicates this is a universal practice. Those ads which include the word 'security' are usually 2 or 4 family houses with the owner living on the premises. A sampling of a few of the other ads where 'security' is omitted showed that they also required it. The landlords just took it for granted that they were entitled to it.

'Security' usually amounts to one month's rent, and is a guarantee on the part of the tenant "for faithful performance of, and compliance with all the terms, covenants and conditions in the lease." (Many landlords who don't give leases nevertheless demand security deposits.) In plain English, the landlord distrusts the tenant and feels that he will try to sneak out in the middle of the night owing a month's rent, or that the tenant is uncivilized and will wreck the apartment. On the other hand, the landlord isn't bound by anything, except what you can bargain for, and certain building codes.

A nice place to visit, but.....Presidential Management represents this building, and if you have on the average $300 a month for rent, you're in!
(M-T photo by Nick Heyer)

There was a time when landlords painted apartments every couple of years, today they won't even supply the paint. The tenant is required to post a 'security deposit' and also maintain the owner's property.

No Laws Covering Security Deposits

Where does the 'security' money go? Right into the landlord or real estate agent's pocket to do whatever he wants with it. If the landlord goes bankrupt or skips town, the tenants have to get on line with other creditors to get their money.

There are no state or local ordinances covering the disposition of rent security deposits.

Is property damage so widespread and rent default so common that the 'security' gimmick can be justified? Neither is the case. Most tenants pay their rent on time and try to keep their homes as decent as possible. One can rent a car or a truck with a comparatively small deposit and it is easier to steal a car than an apartment. Landlords simply have found an easy system to acquire money which they can play around with for periods of time without paying a penny's interest.

See NO LAWS, page 4

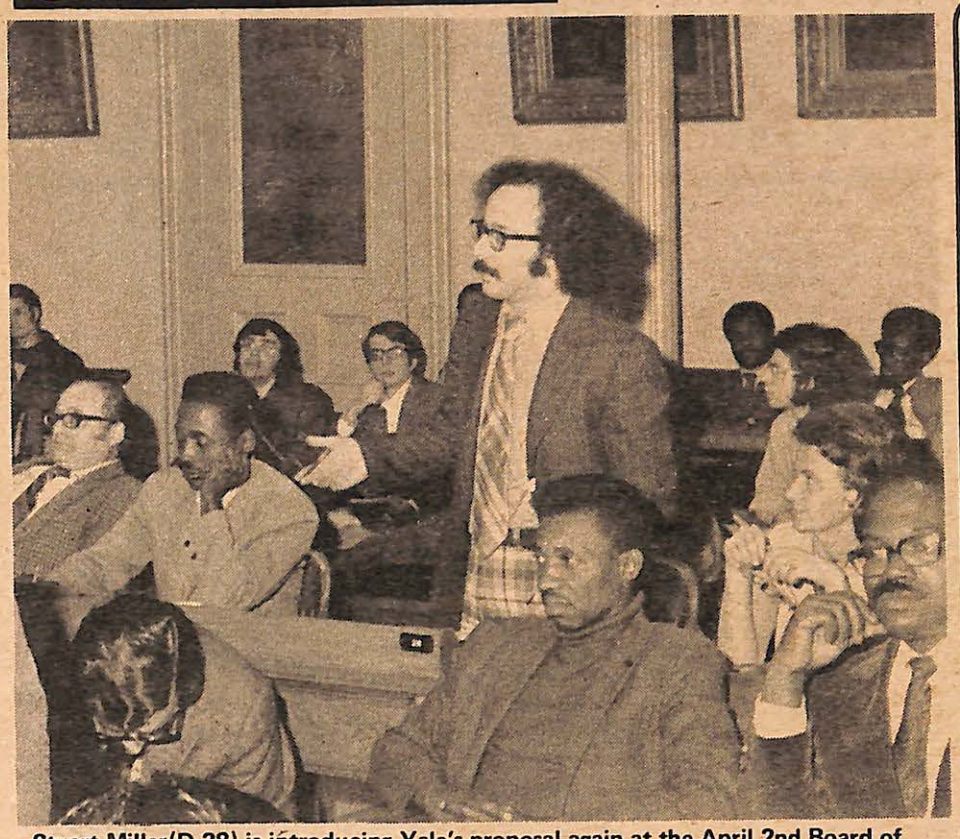
WHAT'S INSIDE

Connecticut Citizens Research Drugs page 2

Boycotts page 4

EYE ON THE BOARD

Yale Pushes But City Won't Budge



Stuart Miller(D-28) is introducing Yale's proposal again at the April 2nd Board of Aldermen meeting and it was again voted down. Most alderpeoples' sentiment was that Yale should contribute more to the city before the city could begin to deal with Yale. (MT photo by Nick Heyer)

Modern Times Staff

On April 2, the Board of Aldermen voted 17 to 12 to reject (for the second time this year) the proposal by Yale to construct two new colleges. The issue again was money –how much Yale would pay to New Haven.

Earlier, on Saturday, March 31, 20 aldermen met with representatives of the Yale Corporation on the university's plan to build two new residential colleges at Whitney Avenue and Grove Street. Alderman Ed Piazza (D-15) had indicated, prior to the meeting, that he was willing to accept the Yale proposal if it included a better financial arrangement for the city. This is a substantial compromise on the city's part which had earlier indicated that it wanted Yale to pay all the taxes on the buildings and land.

Yale Payments

However, while no longer insisting on full taxation, the city is still seeking approximately half a million dollars annually from Yale as payment for services to be provided by the new colleges. This sum would be the minimum acceptable to the city. As was stated during the debate last month, there is no reason why the working people of New Haven should subsidize the education of wealthy Yale students.

The university, however, has steadfastly resisted any attempts to change its precious tax-exempt status. It has merely offered to make a few physical changes in the plan for the colleges. During the meeting Yale representatives were unwilling to make concessions on the tax question or on payments to New Haven in lieu of taxes.

In view of Yale's disinterest in paying its own way, (while wanting the citizens of New Haven to subsidize it) the meeting did not convince the aldermen that they should reverse their March vote against the new colleges. Then, on Monday at a noontime Democratic Aldermanic caucus with Mayor Guida, he repeated his opposition to the Yale buildings and "passed the word" he wanted them rejected.

Second Defeat

So, the motion to reconsider the question of Yale's proposal– introduced this time by Stuart Miller (D-28) and seconded by Fred Wilson (D–20) –went down to its second defeat in two months.

The vote against Yale should indicate to the university's representatives that the city will not approve the new colleges unless significant financial concessions are made.

Yale's desire for approval of the new colleges is reflected in the high-pressure tactics it used on individual Aldermen. A source close to the Board, told of an incident involving an officer of the Second New Haven Bank.

The banker agreed to contribute to a fund to pay for rides for senior citizens if an alderman would change an anti-Yale vote to a pro-Yale one. When the alderman refused, the banker indicated the senior citizens could always ride the bus.

The aldermen stood face to face with Yale and didn't blink. Yale has the next move. The university can always resubmit a proposal containing a more favorable financial arrangement for the city and, thus, win approval to build their new colleges.

Community Notes

WOMEN'S CAREER SEMINARS

Women today and tomorrow is the theme of four career seminars offered by the University of New Haven which began on Thursday, April 5.

The seminars consist of panel discussions led by women active in politics, the professions, and creative arts, who will share their views and life experiences relevant to women preparing for their future in a changing world. Women in the community are invited to participate and are encouraged to bring questions and share opinions.

Career seminars scheduled for future Thursdays are:

"Women in Media and Management"	April 12
"Women in Health"	April 19
"Women On Their Own"	April 26

Each seminar runs from 4 to 5:30 pm in the UNH Student Center Lounge. Further information may be obtained from Carole Aiken, Special Assistant to the Dean, University of New Haven, 934-6321.

PEOPLE'S CAMPAIGN FOR TAX ACTION

The People's Campaign for Tax Action hopes to organize working people, small farmers, small businessmen and other middleclass taxpayers to gain a fairer tax system, especially on the Federal level. It is a project of New Populist Action, begun by former U.S. Senator Fred Harris. Public opinion polls have shown the widespread concern about unfair taxes. The October 9, 1972 Harris Survey showed that by a margin of 71% to 18%, the American people favor "raising the taxes of the rich and lowering them for lower income people" and that by 88% to 6% they demand "closing tax loopholes for high-income people."

The major project for the Tax Campaign this spring will be a Tax Action Day on April 16. In the New Haven area, the Tax Avoider of the Week Award will be given to a major industrial corporation in the area. The corporation has "earned the honor" because it has consistently paid less than its fair share on property which is grossly underassessed. The protest is also aimed at the massive inadequacy of the large assessing firms which set the base valuations on corporate property holdings for tax purposes. Also on April 16 the local TAC group plans a highly visible demonstration and distribution of tax reform literature at the Post Office on the Green to last minute filers of federal income tax forms. For information on the April 16 action and on the future plans of TAC call Andy Chuman at 865-5741.

ARTS FESTIVAL AT UNH

An exhibition of paintings, drawings, and sculptural pieces as well as photographic slides and prints, will be the central attraction of a three-day Arts Festival opening April 14 at the University of New Haven. Open to the general public without charge, the exhibition will display works of art by the University's students, faculty, staff, and their wives and husbands.

The art exhibition may be visited during the following hours at the North Campus Auditorium: Saturday and Sunday, April 14, 15, from 2 p.m. to 7 p.m.; refreshments served. Awards will be announced at 3 p.m. on Sunday. Monday the exhibit will remain open from 10 a.m. to 3:30 p.m.

Pharmacies Rated On Drug Prices

Conn. Citizen Research Group

Pointing to the "incredible differences in the price of identical drugs' , the Connecticut Citizen Research Group (CCRG) has recently released a "Shopper's Guide to Drug Prices' rating the prices of fifty pharmacies in the New Haven area as either "good, average, poor or erratic."

The study by CCRG, a research offshoot of the Connecticut Citizen Action Group (CCAG), was based on the prices of five prescription drugs obtained by volunteers from over fifty stores during February and March. Concurrently, Angie Martin, lobby coordinator of the Connecticut Citizen Action Group, called on the General Assembly to pass legislation that would allow pharmacies to advertise the *prices* of prescription drugs. "If the consumer is to be able to shop comparatively," stated Ms. Martin, "then open advertising by pharmacies must be encouraged."

The General Assembly is presently considering legislation which would eliminate the ban on the advertising of the price of prescription drugs. There are two bills before the General Law Committee––one that would permit posting of prescription drug prices and one that would remove all advertising restrictions.

The drugs used in the survey were Polycillin and its generic Ampicillin, Achromycin and its generic Tetracycline Hydrochloride (all antibiotics), and Miltown, a mild sleeping pill. Prices on Miltowns ranged from $1.49 to $4.00, on Polycillin and Ampicillin from $3.75 to $12.00, and on Achromycin and Tetracycline from $1.75 to $6.00

CCRG Research Coordinator Kathy Steinfeld, in reviewing the results of the study, charged that the system is "designed to confuse and bilk the consumer. It is outrageous that the same drug is selling for three times as much in stores on the same block, and there is no way for the public to know this unless they go to every store in the city."

Wide Range in Drug Prices

The study also found that the prices

See PHARMACIES, page 7

Wide disparity on drug prices is being looked in to by the Connecticut Action Research Group. Shown here is one pharmacy where you will find fairer-than-most prices on drugs, Morton's at 1 Broadway. For more suggestions, see page 7. (MT photo by Nick Heyer)

Please Boycott Shell–The Work Is Hell!

by Joelle Dominski
Modern Times Staff

Been wondering about the billboards around town that say, "Shell? No!"? The Oil, Chemical and Atomic Workers Union has put these signs up all over the country in an effort to mount a boycott against the Shell Oil Company.

Shell workers have been out on strike for nearly three months to gain the right to say what their health and safety conditions will be on the job. Shell, a multi-national oil company owned by British and Dutch interests, refuses to negotiate this fundamental point. The workers are also seeking pension improvements.

"This is not an economic strike, it is a matter of principle," stresses Warren Bunn, assistant director of the OCAW District 8 in Union, New Jersey. He has been coordinating the boycott in this tri-state area.

The union negotiated contracts with all the major oil companies this January, and got agreement on the health and safety clause from all but Shell. This clause is important to the oil workers because of the large amount of dust and fumes they are subjected to at work each day.

Asked about the Occupational Safety and Health Act, Bunn pointed out "If we waited on the number of inspectors there now are, it would take ten years to finish checking all the plants." He said the law has to be monitored locally if it is to be effective. The union wants a comprehensive plan to guarantee health and safety in the refineries, with the union monitoring conditions.

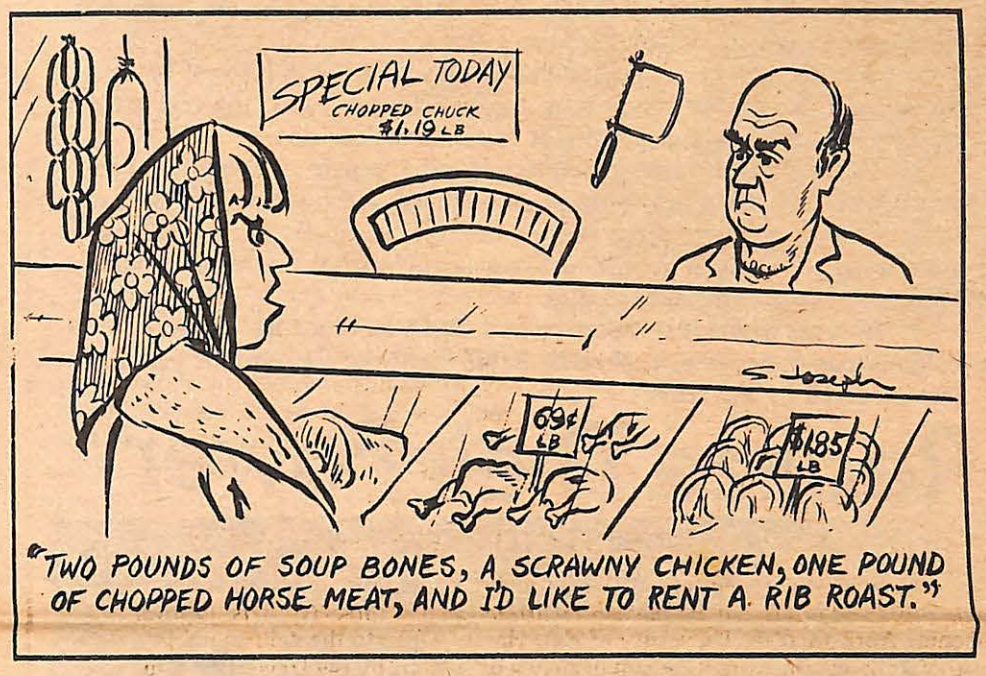
The Shell workers, based mostly in California and Texas, have the financial support of the other oil workers represented by OCAW. They also have the support of the Shell workers abroad, as well as from other unions. In addition, a dozen environmental groups in the New York-Philadelphia area are planning support demonstrations on Earth Day, this month.

Nearly all of the 4200 Shell workers are on the picket lines, and scabs are not getting through. But because of automation, the supervisors have managed to keep the plants running at 50-60% capacity.

"This is very dangerous," said Bunn. He said that the supervisors are not skilled. and are working very long hours, which increases the probability of error.

The public is asked to return Shell credit cards, and refrain from buying any Shell oil until the strike is settled. Bunn says that the month boycott has not had an effect on Shell yet, because of the expensive advertising campaign the company has been using. However, if the boycott keeps up and grows, he feels it will help force Shell to negotiate.

Shell workers call for consumers' boycott to support their strike.



"TWO POUNDS OF SOUP BONES, A SCRAWNY CHICKEN, ONE POUND OF CHOPPED HORSE MEAT, AND I'D LIKE TO RENT A RIB ROAST."

Circus Benefit For Farm Workers

Mark the evening of April 23 on your calendar. In their only New Haven appearance the Royal Lichtenstein Quarter Ring Sidewalk Circus will prove, for once and all, that fund raising does not preclude fun raising.

The New Haven Area lettuce boycott office has announced a benefit for the United Farm Workers that will include not only the circus, but also feature the film "Si, Se Puede!."

The 45 minute color film traces Cesar Chavez's 24-day fast, a non-violent response to the passage of legislation in Arizona designed to destroy the UFW. As the fast continued the workers' campaign to gain justice through hope, love and work grew. Then came the supporters from Correta King to Joan Baez.

The circus is a fast-paced potpourri of circus tricks, comedy, magic, and pantomime spun from the hearts of three men, a dozen animals, and a trunk full of toys. Their repertoire includes mime productions that celebrate human values such as kindness and honesty.

The circus will be held at the Albertus Magnus College Campus Center at 7:30 p.m. Donations are $l for students, $2.50 general and $5 or more sponsoring.

Labor Notes

UCONN CRITICIZED

A report showing the U. of Connecticut hired no new full-time permanent women faculty members for the school year, except in traditional women's fields, has been sent to UConn officials by the assistant provost for women's affairs. According to the report prepared by Gail Shea, of the total 23 women faculty hired for this school year, 16 women have a one-year or part-time appointment and seven were added to the staff of the school of nursing, which the report calls a "traditional female field."

NO FREEZES

Is there a freeze on pay increases for business executives? Not according to figures published by *Business Week Magazine* (March 24, 1973.)

The Chairman of ALCOA got a raise from $324,000 in 1971 to $385,000 in 1972--an increase of almost 20% in one year. The President of International Harvester went from $190,000 to $257,931--a 33% increase. The Chairman of the Chrysler Corporation received the largest increase of all executives. He collected $210,000 in 1971 and $650,000 in 1972.

Some corporate leaders weren't so fortunate. Their salaries remained the same or declined slightly. For example, David Rockefeller, Chairman of the Chase Manhattan Bank, took a pay cut of $4,000 and was forced to subsist on $260,000. The Chairman of the Firestone Tire Co. had to content himself with the same meager $275,000 in 1972.

Overall pay for top executives "jumped 15.5% compared with 1971." In contrast, workers were limited by a 5.5% salary ceiling under Nixon's Phase II pay rules. *Business Week* reluctantly noted that "for many executives to enjoy largesse, other employees apparently had to make do with modest increases or none at all."

REGISTER STRIKE REPORT

Members of Printing Pressmen Local 74 have entered the nineteenth week of their strike against the *New Haven Register*. The most recent negotiating session was held March 8. No progress was reported and federal and state mediators have yet to schedule another meeting.

An additional headache for the union was the demolition of their strike headquarters on Orange Street across the way from the Register Building. Their temporary office was torn down last week to make room for the construction of a 10 story housing project for the elderly sponsored by the New Haven Housing Authority. A new union office has been established at 609 State Street. The phone number is 787-1405 for those who would like to call to volunteer their services on the picket line.

No Laws Govern Rent Security Deposits

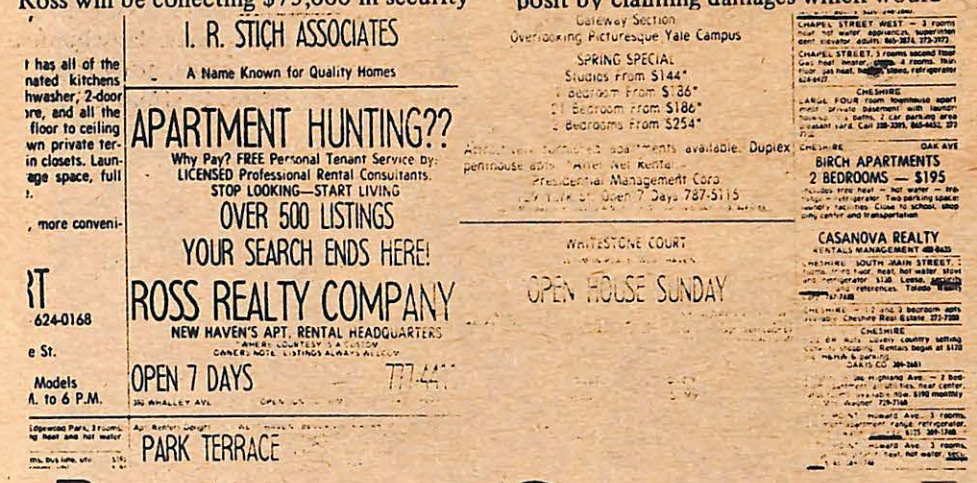
Continued from Page 1

It would be unfair to paint all landlords and real estate agents as heartless and money hungry individuals. But we do have a right to ask that they conduct their operations according to the normal rules of business. The Gas Company requires a $10 deposit from a new customer and they pay interest on the deposit. But consider the tenant who deposits a security of $150 and retains the apartment for 5 years. At a normal bank interest of 5% the $150 would increase to almost $200, although the tenant will be refunded only the original $150. In view of the constant shrinking value of the dollar, the tenant has been had from two sides.

Huge Profits on Security Deposits

Among the ads in the Register reprint there are two for large real estate companies--Ross Realty and Presidential Management. Ross claims to have 500 listings. Assuming that the average rental is $150 Ross will be collecting $75,000 in security deposits. Presidential Management represents three high-rise luxury buildings which contain 734 apartments and professional offices. The average rent is $300 and the total security deposits, when the 3 buildings are fully rented, would amount to approximately $220,000. If both these companies deposited the money in savings banks, Ross would earn about $4,000 annually and Presidential would come away with over $11,000. There are many landlords and real estate and management companies in the New Haven who collectively are holding and manipulating several million dollars of security deposits. It is even possible for such companies to be constantly increasing their real estate holdings by investing tenants' deposits.

Landlords don't return security deposits automatically. There are a number of landlords who make it a practice never to return the money. They prey on poor people and students from out of state attending local universities and keep the deposit by claiming damages which would require the full expenditure of the deposit for repairs. Since the landlord has the money, the tenant can only get it back by legal action. Lawyers aren't interested in such cases because the claims are so small. Going to the Small Claims Court is a total waste because those courts have been turned into collection agencies for large corporations. The student who has to leave upon completion of his or her courses isn't able to remain to pursue legal action. So without a fight the landlord keeps the money. He doesn't have to produce any proof that the tenant did the damage, if any, or that the repairs would equal the amount of the security.



Ridgefield Protects Tenants

These swindles must be brought to a halt. Throughout the country new laws and court decisions are coming out to protect the consumer and tenant. New York State passed a law in 1971 requiring landlords to pay interest on 'security deposits'. In Ridgefield, New Jersey, landlords are required to post deposits of $100 for each apartment which can be used in cases where the Department of Health authorizes 'the expenditure in certain emergency situations.' The money is put in an interest bearing account.

If there is any justification for the tenant's security deposit, then the Ridgefield example makes the idea equitable. Quid pro quo--the tenant puts up money and so does the landlord.

"Law and Order" and "Crime in the Streets" has become the battle cry of every politician running for office. It is time that some attention is paid to a legalized rip-off running into the millions.

Editorial

AIM calls upon the Board of Alderman of the City of New Haven to conduct an investigation of the Security Deposit situation and urges that the Board act on the following proposals:

1. That all 'security deposits' be placed in escrow in interest bearing accounts under the supervision of a special trustee. That interest is to be paid to the tenant when the tenant reclaims the deposit.

2. That landlords be required to deposit a 'repair and maintenance' security so that necessary repairs can be made without protracted litigation. This would cover violations of the Health and Building Codes. The amount of this deposit should not release them from the responsibility of making more expensive repairs.

3. In cases where it has been found that a landlord has illegally withheld a security deposit, he shall be liable for triple the amount plus legal fees incurred by the tenant.

Boycotts: Consumers Realize Their Power

by Edw. Breuler
Modern Times Staff

Gas stations all look alike to me. When I need gas I stop at the closest station to get it. Last week, I happened to pull into a Shell station. I waited for the attendant to serve me. My co-travelers at approximately the same moment, let out a yell of disapproval. "We are boycotting Shell." Before I knew it I found myself driving out of the station and on to the road.

"I forgot," I said, "it gets hard to remember all the boycotts." That was no excuse and this article is intended to help the reader to remember all the boycotts and to avoid embarrasing moments.

As working people, we have very few methods at our disposal to stand off the oppression that bureaucratic organizations inflict upon us. One of the strongest methods is the boycott.

Whenever working people are being denied the fruits of good wages, decent working conditions or personnel benefits, they usually strike. Coupled with this is a boycott of the companies' products. An effort is made in an attempt to force the company to give in to the demands of its workers.

At this time there are several boycotts in the works. Together, we can make them effective and help those that are oppressed.

BOYCOTT FARAH

Amalgamated Clothing Workers of America are still on strike in San Antonio and El Paso Texas. Better wages and working conditions are the issues.

BOYCOTT NON-UNION LETTUCE

Cesar Chavez, director of the United Farm Workers, in his quest for higher wages and better treatment for the migrant workers, has called upon the nation to help him and his workers. Out of this came another call to BOYCOTT A&P (largest chain in the world, 4,000 stores). See *Modern Times* Jan. 15, 1972.

BOYCOTT SHELL PRODUCTS

See story, this issue, p. 3

BOYCOTT THE NEW HAVEN REGISTER

Local 74 is still out on strike against the Register and the issues are wages and working conditions. Cancel your subscriptions to The Register and help 74, OPEIU.

A boycott can do wonders that most people never thought would happen. In 1971, the Farah Co. ran a profit of 6 million dollars. In 1972, they lost over 8 million dollars largely due to the strike and the boycott. In the first quarter of 1973, a total drop of 17% in sales was recorded.

These figures show that a boycott is helpful and hurts where companies don't like to be hurt, in the bankbook. Keep on boycottin'.

Volume III Number 23
Circulation 4,000

MODERN TIMES welcomes all comments and letters to the editor.

MODERN TIMES

Subscriptions: 148 Orange Street, New Haven
Editorial Offices: 441 Chapel Street, New Haven 562-2510

MODERN TIMES is published by the American Independent Movement (AIM) as its political organ. Work on MODERN TIMES is done by volunteers, both members and non-members of AIM. The political views of AIM are given in the editorial. We encourage contributions of the New Haven community in the form of articles and letters.

MODERN TIMES is a paper to tell the story of and by the people of New Haven. We don't get that kind of news in commercial papers run for profit. There is no place else where the work and play of people who aren't rich is considered important enough to write about. There is no place else in New Haven where the problems of working women and men are told by them instead of by their bosses. There is no place else where hunger, bad housing and education, lack of health care and police harassment that people live with is told by them.
We live in the richest country in the world. But only a few people get to use most of this wealth for themselves. We must all work together to claim the wealth we all helped to create. Then there would be no need to strike for a few more crumbs, waste our resources and labor on rockets and bombs, or waste the lives of our young men in wars like Vietnam. We would produce what we need—not what is profitable.

The American Independent Movement has been working since 1966 to get people together against the rich, powerful few who run New Haven and the whole country. We want everyone to have good housing, good education, child care centers, recreation areas, decent health care and decent jobs.

STAFF: David Adams, Gary Benenson, Matt Borenstein, Ed Breuler, Jerry Cohen, Ellen Comisso, Vittorio Comisso, Lillian Dimow, Joelle Dominski, Art Fleischner, Paul Gill, Sam Goodwin, Stanley Heller, Liz Henderson, Nick Heyer, Eileen Hoffman, Peter Jackson, Lynne Karsten, Karl Lechow, Alice Mick, Ray Milici, Patti Miller, Laurie Nussdorfer, Jim Jordan, Renee Poirier, Peter O'Connell, Naomi Resnick, Ruth Resnick, Florrie Ricciuti, Bob Sherry, Henry Tamarin, Ross Thompson, Sergio Verillo, Rick Wolff, Karen Wolff

Brass Tacks Unemployed Demand Fair Deal

by Mike F. Holodnak

The Unemployed Workers Committee, composed of employed, unemployed and welfare recipients, is circulating a petition calling for legislative public hearings to investigate the manipulative practices used by the Unemployment Compensation Offices to prevent workers from collecting the checks to which they are legally entitled.

Being looked down upon and treated like cattle is only one part of the many intimidations the unemployed must suffer. After waiting in at least two different lines, sometimes for as long as two or three hours, then under the threat of losing benefits, they are ordered to seek work every day, even on Saturdays, despite the fact that many plants are laying off instead of hiring.

With the state's recent "reinterpretation" of policy guidelines on what constitutes "suitable" work, a worker unemployed less than six weeks must now accept a job at 15% cut in his former wages, and if unemployed after six weeks he must accept a 25% cut in wages or be cut off from benefits.

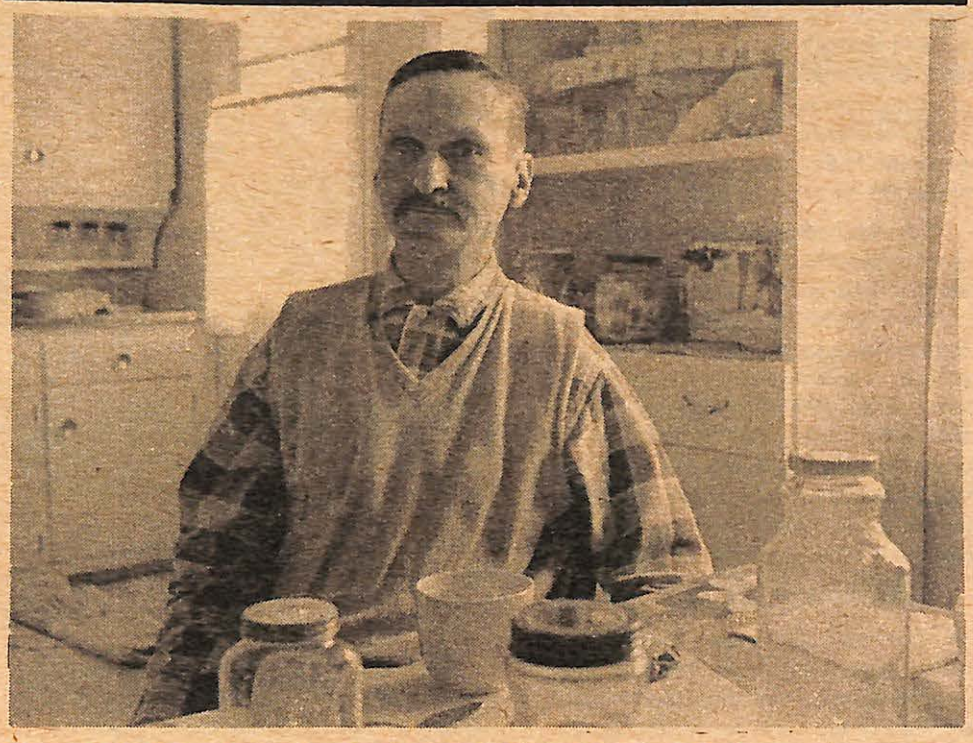
Appeals from disqualification now number from one to two thousand per month.

Forced To Work For Less

By cheating the unemployed out of their benefits the former employer gets back the money he had put into it, and the unemployed are forced to work for depressed wages impossible to live on, or forced into welfare or crime in order to make Nixon and Meskill look good in their claim that they had "reduced" unemployment. Unemployment statistics are largely based, not on real unemployment, but on the number collecting unemployment insurance.

Also, there are thousands of unemployed who have exhausted their benefits, many of whom still remain unemployed but are now non-persons no longer a part of the unemployment statistics.

It's hard to build a strong organized movement of working people. But this is what we must have to bring about the progressive changes America so badly needs. There are many different views on how to do this. We open this column to you, our readers, to exchange ideas and to discuss tactics and strategies. Please send us your ideas and your responses to what you read here.



Mike Holodnak, a longtime contributor to Modern Times, at his home.
(MT photo Patti Miller)

Due to such juggled figures the percentage of insured unemployed dropped to the point where even the federally backed 13 week Emergency Compensation program *has now been eliminated.*

More Restrictions

Furthermore Bill HB5496, proposed by Meskill's Strike Force, will place additional restrictions against unemployed workers.

Section 2 will eliminate use of highest quarters of the base year in computing benefits.

Section 4. In addition to other tightened *requirements this section also reinstates the* one week waiting period.

Section 5. Claimants will be disqualified if in a one week period he or she fails to seek or accept "suitable" work. (Present leeway period is four weeks). Disqualification would last till claimant worked in covered employment for at least three days in six different weeks and earned at least $300. This would disqualify many claimants for a long period, or in many instances for the entire benefit period.

Then there's the change which would require acceptance of any offer of work during a factory shutdown if there is "no substantial reduction" in pay. But it fails to state the nature of the substitute job or what could be considered a "substantial reduction" in pay. Using their present "reinterpretation" of policy guidelines, a machinist earning $4.50 per hour could be required to take a janitor's job paying $2.00 per hour or lose his benefits.

Also "reasonable distance" is defined. If wages offered were $2.00 an hour the employee would be required to travel 10% of that amount which is 20 miles, or be disqualified. This is particularly burdensome on low income people, many from minority groups, unable to afford a car.

Counter Attack

This is only a small part of the war that the Meskill administration is waging against all working people.

To counter this attack on working people the Unemployed Workers Committee is working to unite unions and all worker's organizations with unemployed workers to force the agents of Big Business to stop perpetrating these injustices.

If you have a problem, want to help, or want more information, Contact:

The Unemployed Workers Committee
P.O. Box 3013, Barnum Station
Bridgeport, Conn. 06605
Or call Bill Ard at 366-3562 or366-0377
Some of the things they can offer are:
1. Help in getting a lawyer free of charge.
2. Information on your unemployment rights under the law.

THE BENEFITS OF A UNION

N.H. Teacher Learns From The Recent Strike

by Barbara Greenwood
New Haven Teacher

I'm a first year teacher in a New Haven High School. It's been a difficult year so far, because teaching involves a lot more than checking in at eight and checking out at three. Class preparations to do at home, contacting of students and parents to develop my understanding of them and theirs of my role as a teacher, building my teaching skills in continuing education courses kept me thinking and working many more hours a day.

I've grown to love my work as it's become more real to me, because it challenges all of my human resources, but it has also made me understand the meaning of discouragement and frustration. Teachers had to begin their work this year with few or no supplies, because the Board of Education had been slow in paying its bills and suppliers would not deliver, though materials had been ordered last June. Supplies and materials mean paper and pencils, rulers, stencils and chalk, as well as new textbooks, and audio—visual materials.

I joined the New Haven Federation of Teachers on my first day of school, because it seemed to be the right thing to do. I only really understood how right it was as I began to learn what it means to be an employee of the City of New Haven. The issues that forced the New Haven teachers into the streets last month have been told and retold: a cost of living related salary, maintainance of the increment that teachers hired in the past had been told by the Board was part of their future, a reasonable limit on class size and on the number of class preparations we must make.

Frustration and Anger

But these issues had been clear for the thirteen months of contract negotiations (non-negotiations on the Board's part) that preceded the strike. It was frustration and anger that made me vote yes at the Strike Vote meeting the afternoon of March 5th. Anger at the Board's evident lack of concern for its own educational system , at being hired for a job which working conditions would make impossible to fill, at being misrepresented in the Board's statements to the press that were read by the community, students and parents that I serve.

I found out in the following days on the picket line and at mass meetings that the rest of the teachers out there felt the same way. That made me proud and very respectful of my fellow teachers. The teachers who were out were very frustrated and dedicated working people.

Getting to know them, talking about our work, our attempts at innovation in our classroom, our similar battles with the bureaucratic and often authoritarian administration, sharing all this was a very exhilarating experience.

Observing them"in action",talking to students, to parents, to the strikebreaking teachers, also gave me a new appreciation of them, for rarely in a "normal" working day do we have a chance to observe each other's work.

Being On Strike

Being out on strike also gave me a new understanding of the union. It too was made up of real people, teachers like myself, who

See N.H. TEACHERS, page 6

Members of the New Haven Federation of Teachers turned out in large numbers to picket during the recent strike. Hundreds picketed, daily, at the schools and often, as shown here on the second day of the strike, in front of the Hall of Records in support of the Union's negotiating efforts.
(MT photo by Matt Borenstein)

West Haven Teachers Settle

by Stanley Heller
West Haven Federation of Teachers

It was a disappointed group of West Haven teachers that voted March 27 to accept the tentative contract agreement worked out by their negotiating team with the Board of Education.

The vote in favor of the contract settlement was only 114-89, reflecting widespread dissatisfaction with the salary increase and provisions covering elementary school working conditions. Union leaders were not too pleased with the new one-year contract themselves, but the main sentiment was that most teachers were too scared or apathetic to strongly support efforts to negotiate a better contract.

Next year salaries at each step of the 13 step salary schedule will increase 3% with up to an additional .6% cost of living increase for teachers on the top step. Yet with prices rising these last two months at a 9% a year rate, many teachers feared they were accepting an actual cut in buying power.

No Reduction in Class Size

Teachers were hoping this year for reductions in class sizes for the primary grades, one through three, but next year's contract only guarantees that class size will not increase beyond the 29 found presently in some primary classes. There was also no progress in obtaining more music and art teachers for elementary grades or free time for elementary teachers involved in new individualized reading programs.

Unlike some of its neighboring cities and towns West Haven seems to be enjoying a banner year in terms of increased tax revenues. The Grand List of taxable properties rose $4.6 million. $800,000 in new revenue sharing funds has come in from the federal government.

With some of this new money, the mayor is planning to increase his salary by 20%. Teachers' salaries and elementary education, however, will continue to suffer. But as one teacher was heard to say as she left the contract ratification meeting, "Wait till next year."

N.H. Teachers

Continued from page 5

were out on the picket line every day, giving us encouragement as they gained the strength to negotiote strongly from us. This encouraged me to become more active in the union, and I joined the Community Relations Commtttee of the NHFT. The poor press coverage we were getting made it essential to get a truer picture of our action to the people of New Haven. We distributed leaflets on the Green, made contacts with community groups, and or-organized an informational meeting.

And then the strike was over. For many of the reasons mentioned above, it was somehow sad to return to the isolation and problems of the school, for although we had won a contract, it was clear that we had not won the long struggle. The system is still intact, and although the Board of Education will surely never quite be the same, Education in New Haven has a long way to go.

Teachers learned during the strike that they had the will and some of the muscle to work for change. The support we rec-received from other unions and from community groups was encouraging. The Community Relations Committe is maintaining and building the contacts it made in the course of the strike.

Working together will make it possible for teachers to teach with as much pride and enthusiasm as we had when we struck.

City Kids Learn To Read A New Way

by Lyn Breuler
Modern Times Staff

A new concept in teaching reading, called "Reading in Color," is being used in a Fair Haven tutoring project. The new method was developed by Caleb Gattegno. It is not currently being used in any New Haven public schools.

The tutoring program is sponsored by the Fair Haven Parents' Ministry and funded through the Catholic and Protestant Archdiocese. It is aimed at improving the fundamental reading skills of grammar school students. The director of the program, Judy Scott, is enthusiastic about the success the students are having.

The method varies from traditional teaching methods in that it employs the already developed speaking skills of the children, rather than presenting reading as something radically different from speech. The written word is introduced as a combination of familiar sounds, instead of a collection of symbols, representing a puzzle to be guessed at or unraveled by the teacher. Children are able to discover for themselves what word each combination of signs represents.

Emphasis on Sounds

The language is broken down into 47 basic sounds instead of being separated into 26 characters of the alphabet. Colors are used to represent sets of the same sound; for example, the *s* in *sat* would be one color, while the *s* in *as* would be the same color as the *z* in *zoo*. Once the students become familiar with the sounds, the use of colors is dropped.

The method offers its own reward to students. They are encouraged by their success and their confidence is increased. The emphasis is placed on the child's independent thought processes and children are allowed to pace themselves. The teacher is required only to introduce new sounds to the students, rather than to tell them new words.

Judy Scott, director of the "Reading in Color" program, works with grammar school children to improve their reading skills. Sponsored by the Fair Haven Parents' Ministry, the new reading program has been meeting with growing success.
(MT photo by Nick Heyer)

Ms. Scott has more ambitious plans for a project next year. If her proposal is accepted, she would work with paraprofessionals within the framework of the New Haven Public School system, and thereby be able to reach the students who most need help. The current program is offered to anyone who is interested. There is, however, a waiting list of students who would like to benefit from the program.

Volunteer tutors are recruited from local colleges and high schools. Anyone who might want to spend some time tutoring with this method may contact Ms. Scott through the Fair Haven Parents' Ministry.

Wounded Knee Medic Speaks Here

Ron Rosen, a member of the Medical Committee for Human Rights and its branch, the Medical Presence Project, spoke to a group of New Haveners on March 30 about his recent stay with the Indians at Wounded Knee, South Dakota, working there as a medic. Ron spoke of events leading up to the present armed confrontation between the Sioux Indians and U.S. Federal officials, citing the injustices and horrors suffered by the Indian peoples at the hands of whites. Living at Wounded Knee, even for the short time that he did, clearly and deeply impressed Ron for he spoke with reverence of the Indians' attitudes, and life style, their religion, their dignity and their determination to defend their human rights at any cost.

Sketch of Ron Rosen by Ruth Resnick

Below: Ron Rosen shows some of the natural American Indian medicines given him as part of his training by Medicine Men at Wounded Knee. Many in the audience lingered long after the talk M-T Photo by Jordan Pollack

City Recruited Student Scabs

by Chris Doob
Southern Connecticut State College

During the recent New Haven teachers' strike, representatives from the Board of Education came to Southern Connecticut State College to recruit students to serve as strikebreakers.

Students in one male dormitory told the following story: Announcements were read over the public address system, asking anyone interested to come downstairs. One evening this announcement was made three times, and at the third reading it was also mentioned that substitute teachers would receive $20.

At one gathering there were 30 students present, and the recruiter gave his name and said that he was a teacher from Troup Middle School, but one student went and checked the teachers' roster and found that he was not listed.

Basically the pitch made by the recruiters was economic, that the students would receive $20 for teaching one day. It was also mentioned that it would be a valuable experience for prospective teachers.

The recruiters explained that Southern officials would not need to find out about their scabbing, that their payments would come to them directly, not through the school. This last statement was made because, while Southern officials had not taken a very strong stand on the strike, the President of the College did issue a statement advising students not to serve as substitutute teachers.

A number of students lured by the money did substitute teach. By their own admissions, they accomplished nothing with the students, the classrooms were chaotic and usually they were expected to release the students from class within about an hour.

It was clear that the Southern students were hired not in the interest of education but simply in the interest of finance, to keep the schools technically open so that the system would not lose any of the daily subsidies it was receiving.

Pharmacies Play Loose With Drug Prices

Continued from Page 2

were different for different consumers who went to the same store. In addition, many stores offered low prices on one drug and high prices on others. Most of the surveyors, according to Ms. Steinfeld, "were able to bargain with the druggist of at least one store."

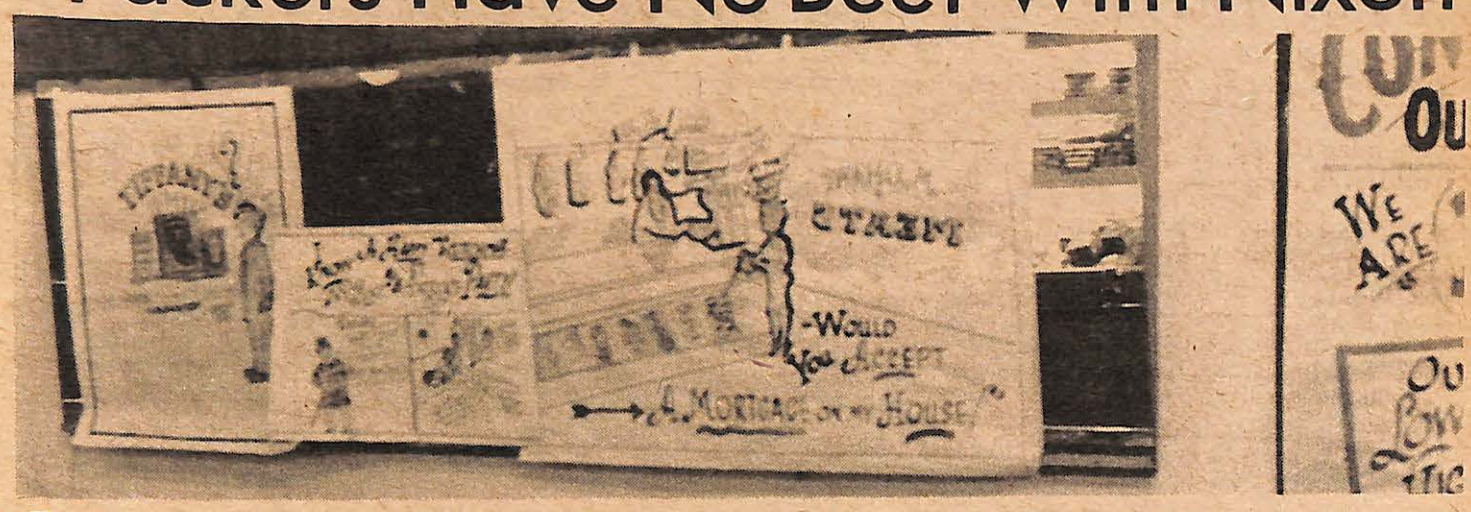
According to the results of the study there was a similar price range for both brand and generic name drugs. "This indicates," stated Ms. Steinfeld, "that the pharmacist may be substituting the more expensive brand name drug for the generic drug——thereby eliminating the benefits of the generic prescription which the physician had written to save the consumer money. This also may indicate that some druggists are substituting the less expensive generic when the doctor prescribed the brand name. For instance one store sells Polycillin for $11.50 and the generic Ampicillin for $6.90, while another store sells them both for $11.00. In such a case while the amount charged the consumer may be the same for the generic and the brand name drug, the cost to the pharmacist is far from equal."

The spokespeople offered assistance to consumers in the battle against high prices. Ms. Steinfeld stated that the Shopper's Guide would be available for 50 cents from her office at 1187 Chapel Street in New Haven. Ms. Martin, as an active lobbyist at the State Capitol advised all consumers to "contact their local Representative and Senators and tell them that you want open drug price information."

GOOD BUY

Chatham Pharmacy 489 Ferry
Courtesy Drug 800 Chapel
Flexer's Pharmacy 1147 Chapel
Highwood Pharmacy 914 Dixwell
Liggett's Drug Store 871 Chapel
Lurie Pharmacy 1158 Whalley
Edw. Malley Co. 2 Church
Morton's Pharmacy 1 Broadway
Orange-Grove Pharmacy 41 Grove (based on only two samples)
Spring Glen Pharmacy 1670 Whitney (based on only two samples)

Packers Have No Beef With Nixon



These cartoons, which make light of the high prices of meat, hang above the meat counter at Mohawk Market on State Street.

(MT photo by Nick Heyer)

Continued from Page 1

the same. They paid more to the farm companies for the meat, but then they too raised their prices beyond that to produce extra profits for themselves.

Profits, Not Products

Now you might be wondering why meat producers and meat packers would raise prices so high, since the higher prices would certainly reduce the quantity of meat purchased by the public. The answer to this question requires that we keep in mind the basic law of private business (in meat as in everything else): the job of the company is to produce profits, not products. If higher profits can be earned by raising meat prices while holding down meat output, that is what the company will do. And that is what the meat industry has done.

And President Nixon's public relations deal of placing a "ceiling" on beef, pork and lamb prices will actually work to prevent those prices from coming down. Before Nixon's decision, the meat industry had to worry about keeping meat prices so high for fear that the government would be forced by public pressure to bring them down. Now Nixon's promise to merely put a "ceiling" gives the meat industry the go-ahead to keep on controlling the output of meat in order to keep those prices right at the "ceiling."

Any way you look at it, the shame of super high meat prices lies in the fact that consumers are being soaked to pay for either the higher profits of the meat industry or the mistaken planning of that industry in not producing enough meat supplies to keep prices down – or both.

The consumer boycott of meat is an understandable, welcome sign of strong, united popular action. It can only be hoped that boycotters will come soon to focus their anger on the peculiar arrangement in our society that leaves the production of one of life's necessities (for most people) in the hands of purely profit-minded companies.

Cut Meat–Trim Fat, High Prices

Diet For A Small Planet (Frances Moore Lappe) is a cook book containing solutions to the problem of preparing high-protein meals without meat. Although eating less meat is immediately helpful in view of ongoing inflation, Ms. Lappe also provides a clear explanation that a meatless diet is a less expensive way to eat high-protein meals generally.

In addition, she also has researched the issue of ecological imbalance which results from a high consumption of meat per person instead of obtaining the required protein through other products. This ecological imbalance is caused by raising vast amounts of protein-rich grains which are fed to animals to obtain a substantially smaller amount of meat protein. This results in overuse of our limited land supply which is destructive to its future ability to yield good, plentiful and edible foods. A meatless diet, or at least a reduction in the amount of meat we eat, would increase the number of people an acre of land could feed.

Meat Consumption Shortens Life

Another argument for less meat in our diet is that Americans' overconsumption of of meat shortens their lifespan. Cholesteral has been directly linked from its source in red meat to an increased risk of heart attacks. It has also been shown that the more expensive the cut of meat the higher the percentage of cholesteral. High meat consumption also means high chemical consumption. Chemicals are used at all levels of the food chain. Pesticides are used to protect the grains, growth hormones to increase the weight of the animal and finally, preservatives to prevent the meat from spoiling. All of these are consumed in some form by people. It becomes evident that the higher on the food chain we go, the greater the percentage of chemicals we ingest.

Therefore, there are strong economic, ecological and medical reasons to practice less meat-buying.

This book explores all these subjects and also offers no-meat meal ideas which enable the consumer to buy less meat and still eat high-protein meals.

My family has tried most of Ms. Lappe's recipes and we've found them easy to prepare and good to eat.

Diet For A Small Planet is published by Ballantine Books and is available in paperback for $1.25

Survey Checks Meat Prices

An extensive survey of food prices conducted in the Milford area last week showed skyrocketing meat prices leading a rapid general advance in food costs, with prices on meat items jumping almost 25% in four months.

The computerized survey was conducted by a coalition of individuals and community groups including the Milford Mothers Club, the Milford Jr. Women's Club, the Orange Newcomers Club and The New Haven Citizen's Action Project NHCAP helped organize the survey. Prices were checked weekly on a "market basket" of items at each of twelve stores in the Milford area. The price increase data wa based on an analysis of 83 items, including ll common meat items, in ten stores in the Milford–Orange –West Haven area between Nov. 30 and March 29.

The groups noted that beef price increases ranged from 54% for chuck roast to "only" 22% for plain ground beef; for pork, from 16% for pork chops to 33% for spare ribs; and for chicken, from 25% for chicken breasts to 44% for chicken cut-up.

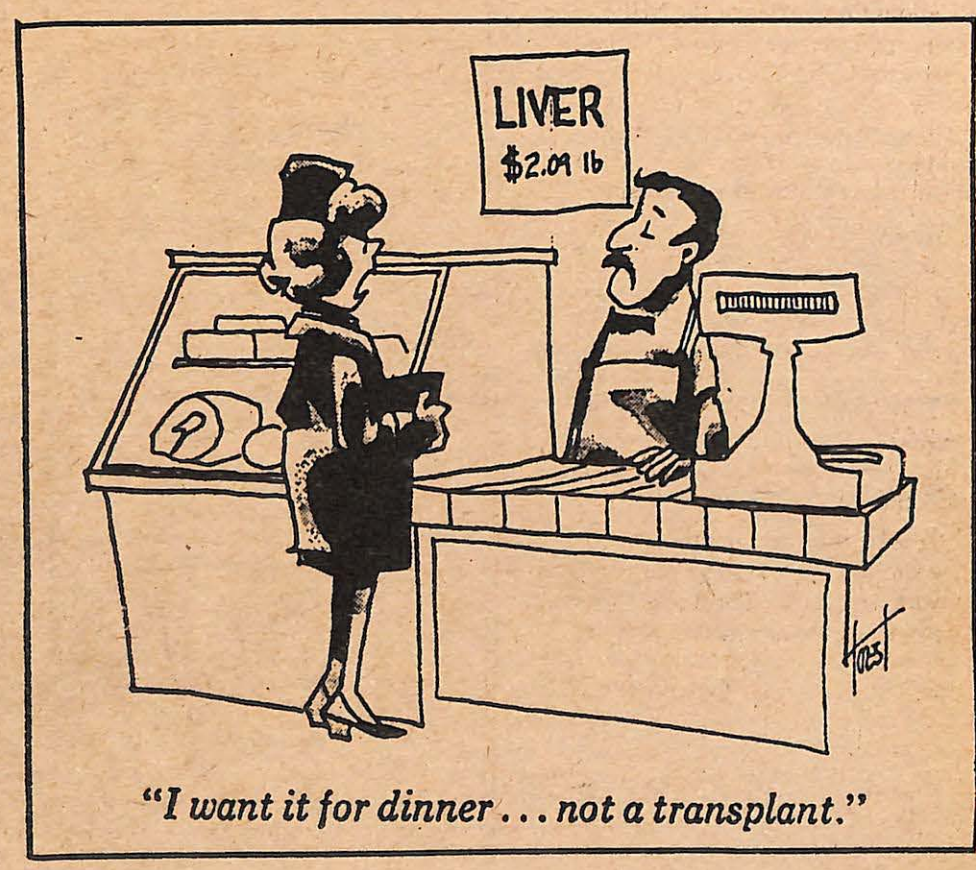
Michael Kane, director of The New Haven Citizen's Action Project said, "We demand that food prices be rolled back at least to Nov. 30 levels, and a rigourous investigation of every part of the meat industry by the Internal Revenue Service for possible violations of Phase II and III controls. In the meantime, consumers can let their views be known by supporting the nationwide meat boycott."

The goal of the Milford survey, the only one of its kind in the continental U.S., is to lower prices through organized consumer pressure on chains with consistently high prices and by increasing competition among stores.

NHCAP has also been surveying the greater New Haven area on approximately a monthly basis for over a year. Over 200 New Haven area housewives and other concerned consumers have participated in this project. The group plans another area wide survey to measure price increases from Nov. 30 in the near future.

Copies of the groups' results are available upon request.

Michael Kane says that the New Haven Register refused to print the price survey of his group with names of stores surveyed. He attributed this to the Register's not wanting to lose ads from food chain stores.



"I want it for dinner . . . not a transplant."

Someone You Can Turn To in the Hospital

by Andy Esposito
Modern Times Staff

Patients at Yale-New Haven Hospital (YNHH) now have their own consumer's champion in the person of Leatrice Malloy, the Patient Advocate (PA).

The PA post was established at YNHH under the sponsorship of the Dixwell Legal Rights Association (DLRA) in the summer of 1969 after conducting a survey to identify the problems encountered by patients using YNHH's clinics and Emergency Room. To assure the PA will be concerned only with championing the patient's cause the Advocate has been made responsible to the DLRA, an organization outside the YNHH hierarchy. Outside control insures that conflict of interest, on the part of the PA, is avoided.

Complaints Investigated

Ms. Malloy, who has been PA for four months, recalled that acceptance of the program by the YNHH staff was unenthusiastic at first. "It was something they felt they had to do," she said, "Now we work hand in hand. The Hospital staff is helpful because they realize problems do exist."

Some of the complaints investigated by the PA are: the poor quality of hospital food, discourteous conduct by doctors toward patients, and the billing and collecting procedures used by the Hospital.

A doctor's rudeness is usually corrected after a short talk with the offending staff person. However, Ms. Malloy starts a file on the doctor and if additional complaints are made the matter is taken up with the offender's supervisor. Ms. Malloy feels problems of this type arise because medical training concentrates on specific illness and not on the people who become ill.

Leatrice Malloy, Patient Advocate, champions rights of patients at Yale New-Haven Hospital. (MT photo by Dave Spinner)

Recent Problems

Unless corrected, lack of courtesy in dealing with patients can yield tragic results. A recent incident provides a vivid example of what can happen if rudeness goes unchecked. Ms. Malloy spoke to a woman who had come a long distance for treatment at a YNHH clinic because she wanted high quality medical care. When the woman was not treated with the respect due her she left the clinic saying, "I would rather die than come back here." Ms. Malloy attempted to convince her to remain at YNHH or at least, to seek treatment elsewhere but met with little success.

The Advocate's office continues to be concerned about a patient's problems even after they leave the Hospital. Once home a complaint about the care received may surface and be brought to Ms. Malloy's attention, or problems may develop in dealing with the business end of YNHH's operations.

One such problem with YNHH's business office involved a man who, although he had paid his bill, was sent a notice informing him that his case was being turned over to a collection agency for non-payment of his bill. Once the matter was brought to Ms. Malloy's attention she intervened and ended the Hospital's harassment of the former patient.

Patients' Rights

Incidents, such as those described, have prompted even the hospital establishment", represented by the American Hospital Association, to write and distribute a Patient's Bill of Rights. "To contribute," in the Association's words, "to more efficient patient care and satisfaction."

So patients will know their rights the DLRA has published a booklet, which is being placed on every bed and in all waiting rooms entitled: "Your Rights as a Patient at Yale-New Haven Hospital." It defines a patient's right: 1)to be admitted to the Hospital, 2)to know who is giving treatment 3) to have all the facts on his/her treatment, 4)to have privacy, and 5) to know his/her rights when leaving the Hospital. The booklet concludes with an important reminder that "being a good patient does not mean being a silent patient."

The assistance of the PA is available to everyone, even after a patient leaves the hospital. All anyone has to do is to call Ms. Leatrice Malloy; from outside the Hospital dial 436-8480, from inside the Hospital dial extension 68480, or visit her in the PA's office located in room 1050A which is next to the cashier's office.

Readers!

Unfortunately —

Modern Times is not immune to the rising costs of living ! *As of May 1 we will have to raise the subscription rate to $5.00 from the present rate of $3.50 (24 issues).* **Present readers can subscribe at the $3.50 rate until then, or renew for a whole extra year.**

Subscribe Now & Save !

Please enter my subscription to MODERN TIMES (new___) (renewal___).

Name _____

Address _____

City _____ State _____ Zip ___

(includes mailing costs)

MODERN TIMES
441 Chapel Street
New Haven, Connecticut 06511

Bulk Rate
US Postage
PAID
4.8 ¢
New Haven, Conn.
Permit No. 89

MODERN TIMES 3rd Anniversary Celebration

You are invited to
A PARTY!
April 26, 1973
at the
AIM OFFICE
148 Orange Street
New Haven
(2nd Floor)
from
7:30 - 9:30

A MOVIE!
"The Inheritance"

REFRESHMENTS!

SONG FEST !

COME JOIN US IN OUR CELBRATION

THE
ANGELA DAVIS BOOKSTORE
is having a
SPRING FAIR • MAY 19
If you have any old books or magazines, clothing, miscellaneous items, bring them to the Angela Davis Bookstore, 17 Broadway, 2nd floor.
Accepting contributions for a bake sale also!
"When you do your spring cleaning, think of us"